

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 134895

LONDON FOR WHALING DEL

REF: TOKYO 8142

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO OTTAWA FROM TOKYO DATED
JUNE 20, 1974 REPEATED TO YOU

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 8142

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, XP, JA

SUBJ: JAPANESE VIOLATION OF NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES CONVEN-
TION AND OF BRISTOL BAY SALMON UNDERSTANDING

REF: A. STATE 130137

B. TOKYO 7885

C. STATE 126258

SUMMARY: EMBOFF CALLED AT FONOFF TO RE-EMPHASIZE US CONCERN
OVER VIOLATION NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES AGREEMENT AND RE-
QUEST PROMPT REMEDIAL ACTION. FONFF REP EXPRESSED DEEP CON-
CERN AND STATED THAT CONTENT US NOTE (REF A) HAD BEEN PASSED
TO FISHERIES AGENCY. FONOFF REP ALSO SAID AS RESULT EARLIER
QUOTE ALLEGED END QUOTE VIOLATION OF BRISTOL BAY SALMON
UNDERSTANDING GOJ GIVING STRONG WARNING TO FISHING INDUSTRY
TO PREVENT ANY POSSIBLE VIOLATIONS IN FUTURE. EMBOFF EXPRESS-
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ED SURPRISE AND CONCERN OVER MILD NATURE OF ACTION TAKEN.

END SUMMARY.

1. SINCE DIRECTOR AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR FONOFF FIRST NORTH AMERICA DIVISION UNAVAILABLE, EMBOFF CALLED ON DIVISION OFFICER (HONDA) JUNE 20 TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS AS DIRECTED REF A. HONDA HAD RECEIVED COMPLETE REPORT OF DEPT ACTIONS JUNE 18 AS WELL AS REPORT FROM JAPANESE CONGEN ANCHORAGE ON PRESS PLAY AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS THERE. HE EXPRESSED DEEP CONCERN OVER ALLEGED VIOLATION AND STATED FONOFF HAD IMMEDIATELY PASSED INFORMATION TO FISHERIES AGENCY WITH REQUEST FOR PROMPT INVESTIGATION. HE ADDED THAT TOKO MARU (FISHERIES AGENCY PATROL VESSEL) WAS PRESENTLY INVESTIGATING CASE. EMBOFF STRESSED EXTREMELY SENSITIVE NATURE OF SALMON ISSUE AT PRESENT AND REQUESTED THAT INVESTIGATION BE PRESSED WITH ALL POSSIBLE SPEED AND APPROPRIATE ACTION TAKEN. HONDA PROMISED TO CONTACT FISHERIES AGENCY AGAIN TO REQUEST SPEEDY ACTION AND TO INFORM IT OF EMBASSY'S REPRESENTATIONS.

2. EMBOFF EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN AT NEED VISIT FONOFF TWICE IN SAME WEEK OVER FISHING PROBLEM AND ASKED PROGRESS REPORT ON INVESTIGATION OF EARLIER VIOLATION OF BRISTOL BAY SALMON UNDERSTANDING. HONDA REPORTED THAT FISHERIES AGENCY HAD COMPLETED ITS INVESTIGATION AND THAT RESULTS BEING SENT JAPANESE EMBASSY WASHINGTON FOR TRANSMISSION TO USG. HE SAID THAT TOKO MARU HAD VISITED JINYO MARU SUBSEQUENT TO USCG VISIT AND HAD BEEN TOLD BY CAPTAIN THAT HE WELL AWARE OF BRISTOL BAY SALMON UNDERSTANDING. CAPTAIN STATED THAT ALL CATCHER BOATS TAKE POSITION READING BY LORAN PRIOR TO LOWERING NETS. HOWEVER, THEY TAKE NO FURTHER POSITION CHECKS DURING FISHING OPERATIONS. CAPTAIN NOTED STRONG NORTH-SOUTH CURRENT IN AREA OF QUOTE ALLEGED END QUOTE VIOLATION AND POSSIBILITY THAT CATCHER BOATS DRIFTED SOUTH OF AGREED LINE. HONDA FURTHER SAID THAT FISHERIES AGENCY HAD POINTED OUT THAT, IN PAST, JAPANESE FISHERMEN STAYED WELL WITHIN AGREED LIMITS WHEN BEGINNING FISHING OPERATIONS. IN PRESENT CASE, HOWEVER, AREA ALLOWED FOR FISHING IS SO SMALL THAT FISHERMEN ARE FORCED TO OPERATE CLOSE TO OUTER LIMITS. CURRENT FISHERIES AGENCY POSITION IS THAT VIOLATION IS DIFFICULT TO DOCUMENT AND, THEREFORE, IT CANNOT EITHER

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CONFIRM OR DENY VIOLATION OCCURRED. HOWEVER, FISHERIES AGENCY DOES INTEND TO ISSUE STRONG WARNING TO FISHING INDUSTRY TO ASSURE THAT VIOLATIONS DO NOT OCCUR IN FUTURE.

3. EMBOFF EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT POSITION BEING TAKEN BY FISHERIES AGENCY AND AT MILD RESPONSE TO WHAT IN US VIEW IS CLEAR VIOLATION OF BRISTOL BAY SALMON UNDERSTANDING. HE POINTED OUT THAT FISHERMEN ARE EXPERIENCED IN CURRENTS IN

AREA BEING FISHED AND EXPRESSED SOME DOUBT THAT THEY COULD HAVE QUOTE DRIFTED END QUOTE 28 MILES WITHOUT BEING AWARE OF THAT FACT. HE ADDED THAT JAPANESE RESPONSE IN THIS CASE COULD WELL CALL INTO QUESTION SERIOUSNESS OF JAPAN'S INTENT REGARDING BRISTOL BAY SALMON UNDERSTANDING. HONDA FELL BACK ON ARGUMENT THAT BRISTOL BAY SALMON UNDERSTANDING WAS MADE BY INDUSTRY AND, AS RESULT, IT DIFFICULT FOR GOVT TO TAKE DIRECT ACTION. EMBOFF AGAIN STRESSED CONCERN THAT GOJ AND INDUSTRY WERE NOT TAKING VIOLATION OF BRISTOL BAY SALMON AGREEMENT IN SAME SERIOUS MANNER IN WHICH I VIEWED BY USG. HONDA SAID THAT FONOFF HAS ASKED FISHERIES AGENCY OBTAIN POSITIONS LOGGED BY CATCHER BOATS WHEN THEY BEGAN FISHING PRIOR TO QUOTE ALLEGED VIOLATION END QUOTE BUT HAD NOT YET RECEIVED SAME.

4. HONDA PROMISED REPORT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ON RESULTS OF FISHERIES AGENCY INVESTIGATION OF QUOTE ALLEGED END QUOTE VIOLATION OF NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES CONVENTION.

5. REGFISHATT ALSO PLANS FOLLOW UP ACTION WITH FISHERIES AGENCY ON VIOLATION OF NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES CONVENTION. SHOESMITH UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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